WATER MATTERS:

A Water Review

Margaretsville Water Utility

Issue #1 Fall/Winter 2007

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County of Annapolis

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Welcome to the first issue of *Water Matters: A Water Review*. The Municipality of the County of Annapolis is pleased to introduce this as a new way of keeping you informed about your water system.

This first issue has been mailed to all customers of the Margaretsville Water Utility. In the future, we would like to be able to limit the use of paper and reduce production and mailing costs as much as possible. This can be done by sending future issues in the form of an e-newsletter via e-mail and by posting on our website.

We need your help to build an e-mail distribution list. If you have an e-mail address, we encourage you to sign up for the e-newsletter by following the instructions provided on the back of this publication. Please take a few minutes to do this right away.

On behalf of council, we extend a sincere thank you to the residents of Margaretsville for your patience and cooperation during the period of water rationing in September. The council and staff regret the inconvenience this caused.

We appreciate that many people were able to attend the public meeting in October. By listening to your concerns, we have a better understanding of the impact of a water shortage on everyday life and recognize the importance of communication. Please read further for the notice of the next public meeting scheduled for December 4 2007.

Kindly take time to read this issue of *Water Matters* and let us know what you think. All suggestions and comments are welcomed and encouraged.

Peter A. Newton, Warden *Brian Connell*, Councillor (District #2)

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Since the October 4th Community Meeting, we have been producing water from the drilled well, from the East Spring and from the West Spring.

During the first half of October, we tested the East Spring. The purpose of the testing was to define the sustainable yield of the East Spring. In the latter half of the month, we tested the West Spring. At that time, we estimated that the sustainable yields of the three sources of water were as shown below.

During the last week of October and the first week of November, we installed a new untreated water pipeline from the West Spring to the Filter Control Building. We connected the East Spring and the Upper Pond to the pipeline. The new pipeline enables us to draw water from each of the springs and the Upper Pond, both together and separately. The new pipeline has also eliminated the capacity restriction created by the Drilled Well pump pressure.

Water from the Drilled Well is pumped to the filters through a separate, independent pipeline. We also developed the West Spring at the beginning of November and put the West Spring in service. While we tested the East and West Springs, we put the water drawn from the springs into the Filters.

We supplied an average of 58 cubic metres of water per day (the Demand) to the Distribution Network in October. At the beginning of the month, we were able to produce 55 cubic metres of water per day from the Drilled Well. By mid-month, the yield from the Drilled well had declined to 20 cubic metres per day.

At mid-month, the Demand exceeded our production capacity (from the drilled well and the East Spring). However, by using water from the West Spring, during testing, we were able to satisfy the Demand. By month-end, with the West Spring in-service, we are able to satisfy the Demand.

The 90 cubic metre per day sustainable yield from the groundwater resources, together with water stored in the Upper Pond should enable us to get through future droughts, comparable to this summer's condition.

In November, we will take the East Spring out-of-service to do some rehabilitation. Based on our experience with the West Spring, we believe that we can raise the daily East Spring yield from 20 cubic metres to 35 cubic metres.

The work will give us a sustainable yield of 90 cubic metres per day. The 90 cubic metre per day sustainable yield from the groundwater resources, together with water stored in the Upper Pond should enable us to get through future droughts, comparable to this summer's condition.

Laurie M. Emms
Municipal Services Director

Three Sources of Water:

Drilled Well	20 cubic metres per day
East Spring	20 cubic metres per day
West Spring	35 cubic metres per day
TOTAL	75 cubic metres per day

DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Like many other Canadians, we here in the Annapolis Valley tend to believe that our country and region have abundant fresh water resources. Unfortunately, only a small proportion of our water is renewable and located close to where most of us live.

Here in Annapolis County, in areas of low dwelling density, it is usually possible to drill a domestic well and get water of sufficient quality and quantity to meet the needs of a single household. However, in areas away from the valley floor and where development densities are higher, it has been our experience that it is challenging to find new "production" water supply sources for existing municipal water utilities and potential new community water systems.

Reducing water demand is our cheapest source of "new" water. Studies have also shown that water conservation measures can be implemented more quickly and are better for the environment than simply focusing on increasing water supply to keep pace with increasing water demand.

Typically, two-thirds of water used in the home is in the bathroom for showers and baths and for toilet flushing. Although all of the water a municipal utility produces must meet Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, only about 10% is actually used for drinking and for potable water uses in the kitchen. In summer this drops to less than 5%, when more than 50% of use of water is outside the home in gardens, on lawns and for other uses (e.g., washing vehicles, siding, driveways and walkways).

Since September, the County's Public Works Department has made progress in improving the water supply in Margaretsville. Considerable effort has gone into increasing the yield of water sources available to your water system. However, this does not mean that we can be complacent about water demand. Both the water utility and its customers need to pay attention to finding and fixing leaks in the system and in the home. We also need to think about other ways to manage water demand.

The County has been advised that a local committee has formed recently to: offer a channel or communication link to the community; increase community familiarity with the water supply system; and look at the issue of demand management. This is a welcome development and municipal staff looks forward to opportunities for more two-way communication and sharing of information.

Keith Robicheau
Chief Administrative Officer

Source: Environment Canada (www.ec.gc.ca/water)

Note: During the summer, more than 50% of water used by Canadian homes is outside (lawns, gardens, etc.)

SIGN UP FOR FUTURE NEWLETTERS

The County of Annapolis is encouraging you to sign up for the Newsletter, *Water Matters: A Water Review*; a first–time initiative that, we believe, will assist in serving you better.

The purpose of the *Water Matters* is to provide our Margaretsville residents with a direct method of communication with us that is immediate, environmentally friendly and cost efficient for taxpayers. It will be offered twice a year (Fall/ Winter and Spring/Summer) and used as a tool to keep you up-to-date on your water utility.

The need for improved communications became apparent this past September when a severe water shortage resulted in water restrictions for Margaretsville residents. The County's goal is to ensure you are made aware of any happenings within your water utility that may effect you as a water user, and have the information sent in a timely fashion. By signing up for this e-newsletter you provide a helpful tool in achieving this goal.

To ensure all residents and water users receive this information, *Water Matters* will be provided through the mail and posted on our website as well (including this issue); but by signing up for email service you will receive your advance copy prior to mail-out.

All you have to do is send an email to nadine@annapoliscounty.ns.ca and let her know that you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email and provide her with your email.

Your opinion is very important to us,

so please send along any comments, suggestions or questions you may have

Please Note: Email addresses collected will **ONLY** be used to communicate with you about Margaretsville Water Utility

LOOKING AHEAD

During the next year, the County will be starting a planning process and residents will be invited to apply to become citizen members of an advisory committee.

Objective: To assist in the development of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land-Use Bylaw for the Margaretsville Water Supply Area.

Committee: We'll be looking for 4 citizen members who reside or own land in the proposed planning area or receive water from the Margaretsville water supply.

PUBLIC MEETING

A Public Meeting will be held on December 4, 2007 7:00 p.m. at the Margaretsville Fire Hall